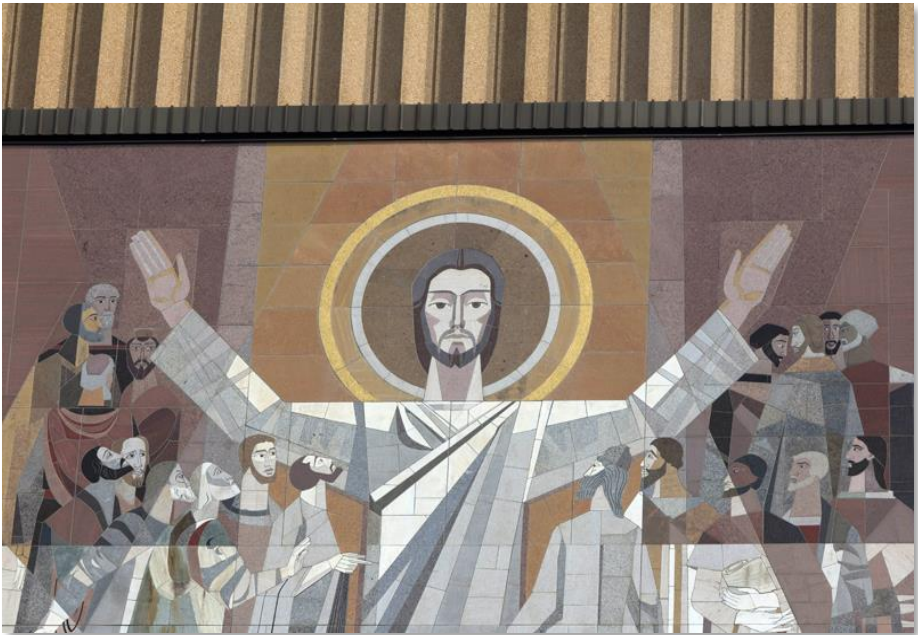




Alstonville  
Anglicans

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**Welcome**



### **Sharing the Good Life**

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people, traditional custodians of the Land.

Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.

Streaming licence: CCLI 102220

Alstonville Anglicans are committed to ensuring that all people who participate in our worship, programs and ministries have a safe and rewarding experience.

**Tel: 66280231 [www.anglicans.live](http://www.anglicans.live)**

**Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931**

## 12<sup>th</sup> May – 19<sup>th</sup> May

12 <sup>th</sup> May		<b>Sunday</b> Holy Communion
	9am	
13 <sup>th</sup> May		<b>Monday</b> Parish Office Op Shop Anam Cara Deadline for bulletin items
	9am-12pm 9am-3pm 10am 10am	
14 <sup>th</sup> May		<b>Tuesday</b> Parish Office <b>Closed</b>
	9am-12pm	
15 <sup>th</sup> May		<b>Wednesday</b> Parish Office Anam Cara Op Shop
	9am-12pm 9am 9am-3pm	
16 <sup>th</sup> May		<b>Thursday</b> Parish Office Op Shop Play Place
	9am-12pm 9am-3pm 9.30am	
17 <sup>th</sup> May		<b>Friday</b> Holy Communion
	10am	
18 <sup>th</sup> May		<b>Saturday</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> May		<b>Sunday</b> Holy Communion
	9am	

**This bulletin contains current announcements and the week's calendar and the sermon notes from the previous Sunday. Use our welcome booklet for info and contact details for regular activities. Keep it as a reference tool. We welcome any feedback on the booklet.** [.../.../..../welcomeBooklet\\_v3.pdf](#)

## **Mother's Day Fete**

### **Plants**

We need plants to be potted up for the fete. Appropriate labelling is helpful.  
Enquiries Barbara Fewtrell 0429385713.

### **Cakes**

Support the cake stall with a donation of your favourite baking. Coordinator: Robyn Beck.

### **Floral arrangements**

Chrysanthemums and gerberas required. Coordinator: Gladys Charters.

### **Produce**

Home grown produce required. Coordinator: Ken Brown.

### **Sew Helpful Craft**

Sew Helpful would like some help in replenishing their supplies for the fete. Any items you would like to make would be most welcome but some items we need are baby jackets, bunny rugs, scarves, microwave bowl holders, coat hangers – adult size, teapot cosies. Thank you for your help.

### **2024 Fete Raffle**

3 Great Prizes valued at \$40 – Dining Voucher, Pamper Voucher, Outdoor Voucher. If you would like to make a monetary donation towards these vouchers you can leave them at the Parish Office or contact Susan Fitzpatrick.

### **2024 Fete Flyers**

Fete Flyers are available from the office. You are encouraged to collect some for distribution in letter boxes around your homes.

**something to delight everyone**

Music Games Cakes  
Craft Face Painting Plants Cards Tasty Food

**MOTHER'S DAY FETE SATURDAY**

11 May 2024 8am - 1pm  
@St Bart's  
6 The Avenue Alstonville

Alstonville Anglicans  
anglicans.live

## Confirmation

Bishop Murray will be visiting the Parish on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October. If you are interested in being confirmed please complete the application form and speak to Rev Desiree. Forms are available in the Parish Office and via the website.

## To Make you Smile



**BONFIRE NIGHT**

Charlie and Jenny's home  
Brockley Farm 1385 Bruxner Highway  
Phone: 0427 462 540

★ Bring: chairs, mugs, rugs, sturdy shoes, torches ...

**SUNDAY 26TH MAY 2024 4PM**

Alstonville Anglicans [anglicans.live](http://anglicans.live)

## Sermon Notes Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May

### Geoff Vidal - John 15:9-17

60 years ago, on 10 Feb HMAS VOYAGER was lost in a collision with HMAS MELBOURNE 37 km off Jervis Bay. VOYAGER was built at Cockatoo Island in Sydney and had been launched by Dame Patti Menzies. There was a crew of 314 onboard and 82 of these men died in the collision. I have vivid memories of all the activity that night beginning at 9pm when sirens sounded at the Naval College. I had entered the Navy two weeks earlier with another 31 Cadet Midshipman. We were all 15 years old. Last week in Brisbane we had a 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion of those of us remaining. We all turn 76 this year and continue to share significant connections; our lifelong comradeship bonded through shared experiences. One became an Admiral but only one commanded a ship and one commanded a shore establishment. Several of us were 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of ships. Our wives have also stayed connected, and two widows attended the reunion.

Recently, on ANZAC Day, communities witnessed more of the bonding and comradeship resulting from military service which leads to care and concern for each other. You can pretty much guarantee that at any ANZAC Day service, we are going to hear "abide with me, fast falls the eventide" although brass bands seem to always play it too slowly.

Abide is a good word. It has a nice, comforting feel to it. It is a word which seems particularly good to describe those living in special communities and the ex-military fraternity. There was a sense at this reunion in Brisbane that, even though we are scattered across the world, we continue to be abiding with each other and actually have been since our shared service began in January 1964.

But we mostly know "abide" as one of our churchy / religious type of words and it is a key word in today's Gospel reading. The Greek word we translate as "abide" also can be "indwelling" or "remain", but most significantly, it's one of these Greek verbs which doesn't just mean do it .... it means do it and keep on doing it.

Jesus tells his followers he has loved them, and he encourages them to abide in his love. He wants them to be abiding.... not just for the time being.... not just for today. Jesus words mean abide now and always keep on abiding.

And I believe that here in John 15 this word "abide" has a deeper meaning than to just "live with" or "remain in". This passage continues on from the message of the vine and the branches. Last week, the Friday people heard

me talk of abiding in a twisted vine; being all tangled up and twisted in together. We are not talking of a tree with branches sticking out separately from a big trunk. And the thing with a vine such as a passionfruit or a wisteria is that you can't get in amongst it without having an effect on the rest of the vine.

Being all tangled up (abiding) and staying tangled up in Jesus' love and love for others is just one of the hugely significant encouragements in this really special teaching of Jesus. Jesus loves us! He says it plainly here and our Sunday School teachers need a gold star award for teaching us to sing "Jesus loves me this I know".

The reading from John 15 today tells us about some wonderful spin offs from living (abiding) in this reciprocal love; Jesus loving us and we loving Jesus.

Firstly, there is confidence in prayer. In v16 Jesus mentions the certainty that comes with prayer shared within this spiritual union. "You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name". (when we abide together).

And there is not just confidence in prayer. There is confidence in life! An assurance that all will be well. The reason that we have confidence in Jesus' love for us is because it is modelled on God's love for him (vv9-10). Assurance is closely related to our awareness that we are loved by God.

Another spin off in an abiding with prayer and confidence is JOY. This is more than just happiness; it is a deeper peace that comes from not worrying about the affairs of living. This joy is a contentment that comes from knowing that God's purposes are good (v11).



And in those times when it all happens; and when there is this abiding in love, there is a new community. Through everything Jesus says here in John 15, he is encouraging his followers to be a community where people actually care for each other; love one another (v 12) . Christians are being encouraged to stay connected like we have been in this

group that began in the Navy together 60 years ago. We are being encouraged to have a unity which is deep even if it falters from time to time.

As Jesus' love for us is modelled on God's divine love for him, now our love for one another should be modelled on his love and sacrifice (vv13, 17). Christ-like love should be the hallmark of the church. We know that the church often falls short. It fails. Sadly, the church has times when shared love is not seen.

We all really want the church to be right. We don't expect it to be perfect, but we want it to be good. As we struggle to work out how we can be more like the church we understand that God wants us to be, there is a lot of value in referring back to this lovely Chapter 15 of John and reading it regularly.

Let me read again this prayer of encouragement that Jesus prayed in v10; "If you keep my commandments, **you will abide in my love**".

The way we generally think is that if you do something good the result is likely to be some sort of reward. But that is not what Jesus says! Jesus doesn't say "**IF** you keep my commandments **THEN** you will be loved by me".

Jesus isn't saying "be good and I will reward you". What Jesus says is a positive encouragement. Jesus wants us to remember "if you are living trying you best to follow my commandments, **then you will know** you are you are living in my love".

On Fridays, we begin the service with "You shall Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength..... And love your neighbour as yourself". Think of this as more of a promise than a command. The promise is that if you are abiding / connected with God, then loving God with everything will not be a task ...it will just be the way it is and you will know that you are living in Jesus' love.

That's our encouragement to ABIDE. And the flow on effect is that Jesus' joy will be with you. Your joy will be complete.

And Jesus will call you his friend (vv 14, 15). Most significantly, we will stay friends, even when we fail. Even devoted friends can fail us when we need them most. Jesus' friends often failed. However, everything we read in the Gospels shows that Jesus never stopped loving them.

May we live joyfully, knowing that we are loved. This is not a "maybe", as a consequence of us doing something such as praying properly or always coming to church.

There is no Maybe about it! We are loved! The Bible tells me so!

## Sentence of the Day

Jesus prayed, 'Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.' John 17.11

## Collect

Almighty God,  
your blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things:  
mercifully give us faith to trust  
that, as he promised,  
he abides with us on earth until the end of time;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## John 17:6-19

<sup>6</sup> 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup> I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.